hydropower projects. Details of hydro power projects presently under taken/beingunder taken by NTPC and envisaged for benefits in the 11th/ 12th plan period are as under:

Sl. No	Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Location	Status
1.	Koldam	800	Himachal Pradesh	Under Construction
2.	Loharinag Pala	600	Uttarakhand	Under Construction
3.	Tapovan Vishnugad	520	Uttarakhand	Under Construction
4.	Rammam St. Ill*	120	West Bengal	Under infrastructure
5	Lata Tapovan*	171	Uttarakhand	-do-
6.	Rupsiyabagar Khasiyabara	260	Uttarakhand	Under Detailed Project Report preparation stage
7.	Etalin	4000	Arunachal Pradesh	Under investigation stage
8	Attunli	500	Arunachal Pradesh	Under investigation stage

* To be implemented by NTPC Hydro Limited, a 100% owned subsidiary of NTPC.

(c) and (d) Presently, no hydro power plant is under operation by NTPC Ltd. and as such no hydro power is being generated by them.

(e) and (f) Government has accorded priority of hydro power development and has planned to achieve an ambitious hydro capacity addition in the ensuing plans Keeping this objective in view, NTPC Ltd., besides adding to thermal capacity, has also been entrusted with hydro development in the country.

Setting up of National Energy Fund

†3446. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: '

(a) whether Government propose to establish an autonomous National Energy Fund for the development of power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when Government are likely to take decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Integrated Energy Policy Report has recommended the setting up of a National Energy Fund (NEF) to promote R&D in the field of Energy. The report has suggested an initial allocation of Rs. 1000 Crore excluding Atomic Energy. The report is currently under the consideration of the Government of India.

Power shortage in the country

3447. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed his serious concern over power shortage of varying degrees across the country and suggested introspection on crisis in power sector, and

(b) if so, the various measures under Government's consideration to tackle the power shortage? .

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir, while presenting the National Awards to the Power Utilities, for meritorious performance, Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed concern over power shortages and suggested introspection on crisis in the power sector.

(b) The following steps have been taken/are being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.

(ii) Advance planning of generation capacity addition projects for the 11^{th} Five Year Plan.

(iii) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.

(iv) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal